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Iraqi crew works to expand Qudas electrical generation

By Norris Jones
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BAGHDAD, Iraq – Qudas electric generation facility in north Baghdad is getting two new gas turbines which will add 200 megawatts of power to the national grid.

A crew of more than 150 Iraqis are involved with the \$160 million project and this month are placing 1,000 cubic meters of concrete to create the two pedestals where those new turbines will be located. The contractor expects to have the new turbines on line and providing electrical power to Iraq sometime next spring.

Col. Robert Vasta with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says, "This is important for Baghdad and the entire country. We're working directly with the Ministry of Electricity at each step to ensure we're meeting their quality standards and expectations."

Currently there are four large turbines and four smaller ones at Qudas with a total generating capability of 492 MW. The \$160 million expansion project will increase that power output 40 percent. (One megawatt of electricity is enough to power more than 900 Iraqi homes, so those additional 200 megawatts will impact an additional 180,000 households.)

"It's tremendously satisfying to be part of the efforts to rebuild Iraq," Vasta said. "Whether we're renovating a hospital,



Construction is under way to add two 100 megawatt gas turbine generators at the Al-Qudas facility in north Baghdad. Those new generators are expected to be on line and producing electricity sometime next spring. More than 150 Iraqi workers are involved with the project. (USACE photo by Norris Jones)

building a new school, installing water or sewer lines, or overseeing a project like Qudas, it's all part of restoring and improving basic essential services. Iraqis want some normalcy in their lives. It's great to be part of this work."

Iraqi Electrical Engineer Farooq Hasan is working shoulder to shoulder with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers quality assurance team each day monitoring the ongoing construction. "The Iraqi crew is there seven days a week and they know the importance of getting this additional

electrical capacity up and running,” Hasan said. “Their efforts will benefit all of Iraq.”

Mohammad Hassan, a member of the construction crew at Qudas, travels to work each day from his home in a nearby community. He said, “We are all working hard to complete this project as soon as possible. With God willing, Iraq will eventually have electricity 24 hours a day and we will live in peace.”



Iraqi workers place hundreds of cubic meters of concrete at the Al-Qudas gas turbine expansion project in north Baghdad. In all, 1,000 cubic meters of concrete will be needed to create two pedestals which will serve as the foundation as two new 100 megawatt gas turbine generators are installed. (USACE photo by Norris Jones)

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